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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MDA'S WINTER SYMPOSIUM EMPOWERS COMMUNITIES FOR SUCCESS

The 2003 Winter Symposium sponsored by the Community Services Division of the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) took place today at the Clarion Hotel in Jackson. The daylong event was the second annual event of its kind sponsored by MDA. Governor Ronnie Musgrove was the keynote speaker for the event.

"As our communities move forward in the 21st century, the state of Mississippi is working to empower community leaders and citizens to succeed," said Governor Musgrove. "With events like this symposium, our goal is to provide proven methods for communities to attract new businesses and good jobs. We understand that good jobs mean good communities."

Sam Mozee, Director of MDA's Community Services Division, commented, "The 2003 Winter Symposium was a tremendous success. We were pleased with the number of participants and the quality of the presenters. Through the presentations and other resources, we've tried to equip community leaders with the tools they need to effectively pursue their business recruitment efforts, infrastructure improvement projects and coalition-building endeavors."

Building on the theme, "Power Up for Prosperity: Creating a Vision in Your Community," the symposium also featured presentations by Rick Smyre, President of the Center for Communities of the Future, and Dr. Suzanne Morse, Executive Director of the Pew Partnership for Civic Change. Panel discussions offered participants one-on-one interaction with representatives from a variety of state agencies and other organizations that provide grants, loans and other resources to communities throughout the state.

Robert J. Rohrlack, Jr., Executive Director of MDA, was also present at the symposium and shared an overview of MDA's programs and services. "Today's event is designed to educate the public about the services MDA offers not only to business and industry, but to communities as well," said Rohrlack. "We want community leaders to understand how we can assist them in their efforts to build stronger, more competitive communities."

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